

she provided administrative support for the Sea Power subcommittee chaired by Charles E. Bennett and was promoted to her current position as Professional Staff Member on the full committee in 1988.

During the past 30 years, Ms. Wright has served seven committee chairmen, including myself, and has witnessed many pivotal moments in U.S. Congressional and military history. The House Armed Services Committee has been fortunate to benefit from the contributions of those who, like Brenda, not only have a great deal of experience, but who also appreciate and understand the history and the workings of this committee. Brenda joined the Congressional community at a time when our military faced the challenges of the aftermath of the Vietnam War, and since then, her efforts on behalf of our men and women in uniform have been consistent and unwavering. Recently, she recalled that one of the highlights of her tenure was the opportunity to personally witness the commissioning of the USS Cincinnati Los Angeles-class submarine and to stand among the service members who serve our nation so capably.

Madam Speaker, public perception of Congress frequently seems to be based on the personalities and characters of a few powerful figures. However, as one who shares Brenda's long tenure on the Hill, I know that Congress relies on the dedicated staff who steadfastly complete their work in the shadow of the dome and in the shadow of the limelight. Brenda Wright has gained a well-earned reputation as a dependable, loyal, and capable staff member whose absence will be felt by all who have had the privilege of working with her.

On behalf of all of the members of the House Armed Services Committee and her colleagues on the HASC staff, I congratulate Brenda on her upcoming retirement and thank her for her exemplary public service. With deep appreciation, we extend sincere best wishes to Brenda, her sons Robert and Lavan and their families for continued health and happiness.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST  
BRANDON L. STOUT

**HON. PETER HOEKSTRA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Specialist Brandon L. Stout, who died on January 22, 2007 in Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist Stout, who was 23 years old, died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. He was assigned to the 46th Military Police Company, 210th Military Police Battalion, Army National Guard, Kingsford, Michigan.

Brandon was raised in Kent City, Michigan. He met his future wife Audrey while attending Great Lakes Christian College from August, 2002 to May, 2003. They married in May of 2005.

Brandon's faith was an important part of his life, and he hoped to pursue a vocation in ministry. He felt called to serve his country and joined the Army National Guard in June 2003.

In 2005 he was deployed to Louisiana for nearly two months as part of the Hurricane Katrina response. Brandon trained at Fort Dix, New Jersey beginning in July 2006 and was deployed to Baghdad on October 1, 2006. He earned his promotion to Specialist in December of 2006. Brandon was looking forward to a scheduled two-week leave with his wife, family and friends.

Brandon is survived by his wife; his mother and step-father, Tracy and Jeff Anderson; his father and step-mother, Bill and Tammy Stout; and his brother, Adam. His extended family includes Andrew, Elizabeth, Stephanie and Christine Anderson; Stephanie Stout and Callie McGee; Gary and Laurie Hinken; Dusty and Lisa VanderMeer; and Marianne and Lindsey Hinken.

Specialist Stout's family and friends consider him a role model and a hero. He was dedicated to serving his country, was steadfast in his faith and deeply loved his wife and family. I extend my prayers and condolences to his family and friends and hope that they find peace and comfort during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT  
JONATHAN KINGMAN

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a brave young soldier, and one of America's fallen heroes, Sergeant Jonathan Kingman of Ohio.

Sergeant Kingman was a native of Mansfield, Ohio, and graduated from Mapleton High School, where he sang in the school choir, played basketball, and was a member of the track team.

Jonathan Kingman died on January 20, 2007, in Iraq, while serving his second tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Age 21, he is survived by loving family, including his wife, children and parents.

In reading of Jonathan's life and speaking with his family members, Madam Speaker, I was touched by the dramatic impact this young man had on the lives of so many.

Like others before him, from farms, fields, and small towns across our land, Jonathan Kingman stood up and volunteered to serve his country.

He fought to promote freedom. He gave his life in defense of his family, his community, his state, and his nation.

For this, each and every American owes him and his family a great debt of gratitude.

Jonathan will be missed. But the strength of his character, and the courage he demonstrated through his service, will live on.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMFORT  
WOMEN RESOLUTION

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the over 200,000 "comfort

women" in Asia who suffered unimaginable dehumanization by the Japanese Imperial Army during Japan's colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II.

These women, whose experiences were unprecedented in cruelty and were officially commissioned by the Government of Japan, endured gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide—and to this date, they have still not received justice from this tragedy.

Their hope is a modest one: That the government of Japan acknowledges, apologizes and accepts full historical responsibility for this crime.

Today, I am introducing a resolution which calls on Japan to formally and unambiguously apologize and acknowledge the tragedy which the comfort women endured under its Imperial Army during World War II. Not only should Japan's Prime Minister issue a public apology, Japan must take responsibility unequivocally.

Some question whether this resolution is necessary and warn that it could affect our nation's strong friendship and alliance with Japan. Some even argue that Japan has already apologized, and this resolution fails to recognize that. It is true that Japan's previous Prime Ministers have issued statements related to comfort women. However, it is clear that these statements are not viewed by the government of Japan with unequivocal respect, and the comfort women themselves do not consider them formal apologies. Japan has equivocated in its stance on this issue, which is made clear in their recent attempts to alter previous public statements and their school textbooks.

For example, in 1993, Japan's then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono issued an encouraging statement regarding Japan's comfort women, which expressed the Government's sincere apologies and remorse for their ordeal. Today, some members of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party strive to review and even possibly rescind Secretary Kono's statement.

Further, the Japanese government continues to seek to downplay the comfort women system in its textbooks. We must ask ourselves, if Japan has truly come to terms with its past in acknowledging what its Imperial Army forced upon these women, why are they suppressing the knowledge of this through education? Education on this tragedy is important to ensure that future violence against women, especially in conflicts, should not be tolerated or repeated. Textbook suppression, coupled with efforts to revise Secretary Kono's 1993 statement, is disheartening and indicates that Japan wavers in its apology to these women.

I want to make it clear that I recognize and value the importance of our strong friendship with Japan. I appreciate Japan's efforts to provide monetary compensation to surviving comfort women through the Asia Women's Fund, a government-initiated and largely government-funded private foundation whose purpose was the carrying out of programs and projects with the aim of atonement for the comfort women. The Asia Women's Fund is to be disbanded on March 31, 2007, and while I agree that the Asia Women's Fund was important, the reality is that the majority of surviving